00717

1969/12/30

Rewrite

ACTION

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Private Meeting between Henry Kissinger and Xuan Thuy in Paris

At Tab A is a proposed memorandum of instructions to General Walters which contains the specific language of the proposal he is to make to the North Vietnamese if we are to proceed with my meeting with Xuan Thuy in Paris. The message would:

-- Place the ball in the North Vietnamese court by informing them that we are prepared to go beyond the existing framework of the discussions in Paris providing they also are willing to do so.

-- Leave it to their initiative to propose a time and place for such a meeting.

The memorandum of instructions has been toughened up considerably from the earlier version which I discussed with you (copy at Tab B). The timing of the initiative has also been modified to permit us to fully assess the North Vietnamese response to our proposal to meet on a restricted basis, which will be made by Ambassador Habib during the Plenary Session on January 8. To allow time for this assessment, General Walters should not make contact with the other side until sometime after the 10th of January, giving us at least two days to assess the North Vietnamese response to the proposal made in the January 8 Plenary. This would mean that my meeting with Xuan Thuy would not be before February 2.

With your approval, I will forward the memorandum at Tab A to General Walters, with the provision that he should not contact the other side until he receives specific instructions to do so and that, in any event, these instructions will not be provided before January 10th.

Approve ____________ Disapprove ____________

Attachments

Rewrtn:HAK:AMH:ms:30Dec69

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guideline
By ___, NARA, Date 12/20/99

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR

JAN 1 1970

Major General Vernon Walters
Senior Military Attache
American Embassy
Paris, France

Following is a message for you to convey to Xuan Thuy or Mai Van Bo on January 12. It should be conveyed orally -- no written message should be left with them.

BEGIN MESSAGE. My government has studied with the greatest care the communication you delivered to me on December 12. As Mr. Kissinger said on August 4, my government believes that the matters discussed between him and the North Vietnamese Minister Xuan Thuy should go beyond the framework of the plenary meetings at the Majestic Hotel and the private meetings held with members of our delegation, both as to substance and procedure. The purpose of such meetings is to produce the framework for a rapid solution of the conflict on a basis fair to all.

It is in this spirit that my government continues to stand ready for a meeting between Mr. Kissinger and Minister Xuan Thuy. If your side wishes also to talk in this spirit of going beyond the existing framework, we suggest you propose a time and place for such a meeting. END MESSAGE.

After reading this message, you should indicate that it would be preferable to find a date over a weekend, in order to limit speculation about my absence from Washington. If they propose a date, you should say that I cannot come to Paris before February 8.

With regard to the place for a meeting, you should offer to provide a secure location. The meeting could not be held at the North Vietnamese compound, which for this purpose is an object of too much public interest. We are confident a secret, secure location acceptable to both sides can

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NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By lat, NARA, Date 12/20/99

be found. If they suggest other locations at this meeting, you can indicate again our desire for a place which would provide secrecy and security for both sides, and state you will report their suggestions to Washington and provide them with our answer soon.

If they suggest I meet with lesser-ranking representatives, you should emphasize our expectation that Xuan Thuy himself will participate in such a meeting. We would have no objection to Xuan Thuy's bringing along any other North Vietnamese representatives he wishes.

Henry A. Kissinger

HAK:WW:il (12/31/69)